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General Economic Information and Deportations from Saaremaa Island

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Concentrated efforts are being made to complete the collectivization of all farms on Saaremaa at the earliest possible date. It is estimated that at this time 90 percent of all farms on Saaremaa have been forced into the collectivization program. The greatest hindrances to the program at the present time are the lack of personnel and the lack of farm machines. The work on the collective farms is despised by the younger people, who instead go to the city to seek factory employment and thus create a great shortage of man-power in the rural areas. At the present time there is a great shortage of food on the island as the deliveries to the state have to be met without regard for the conditions of the local farmers. The fishermen have likewise been forced to join the State fishing brigader and are therefore forced to deliver practically all catches to the Tishing combines and they are likewise near a starvation existence. It is rumored that the foodstuffs are being sent as aid to the Chinese Communist army.

- With reference to recent deportations from Estonia, it is reported that during the period 25-28 March 1949 approximately 4000 persons were arrested on the island of Saaremaa. The persons slated for deportation were collected in trucks and first taken to Kuressaare where they were loaded on board three ships and sent to Paldiski (59-21N, 24-04E). Paldiski they were placed on board railway carriages and sent to the area of Novosibirsk (55-02N, 82-53E). Here they are engaged in agriculture on collective farms. Letters are received from the deported persons and they generally complain of the near-starvation conditions under which they live. In toto it is estimated that approximately 40,000 persons or about 60 percent of the former inhabitants have been deported from the island. To date no Soviet civilians have been brought for settlement purposes to the island.
- The monthly earnings of an unspecialized Estonian worker on the island is estimated at about 300-400 rubles. The following is a schedule of the prices prevailing on the island in the month of November 1949:

| Bread, per kilo | -2.5 | rubles |
|------------------|------|--------|
| Butter, per kilo | | |
| Bacon, per kilo | | |
| Meat, per kllo | 16.0 | rubles |
| Eggs, per egg | 1.0 | ruble |

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

| Sugar, per kilo 12.0 rubles |
|-----------------------------------|
| Suit of clothes 700.0 rubles |
| Overcoat 1000.0 rubles |
| Shoes, leather soles 450.0 rubles |
| Shoes, rubber soles |
| Vodka, per liter 45.0 rubles |
| Gigarettes (box of 25) 2.2 rubles |
| Bicycle 1200.0 rubles |
| Radio |
| Wristwatch $ 800.0$ rubles |

